

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A refrigerating apparatus for chilling an object, the refrigerating apparatus comprising a chamber having a longitudinal axis and being configured to receive the object to be chilled, an inlet and an outlet spaced along the longitudinal axis of the chamber, a device for generating a fluid flow within the chamber and a structure for causing the fluid flow to follow a helical path ~~in contact with the object to be chilled~~ about the longitudinal axis within the chamber between the inlet and the outlet and around the object to be chilled, the fluid being in contact with the object to be chilled.

2. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inlet is arranged tangential to the chamber so as to cause the fluid flow to follow a helical path about the longitudinal axis within the chamber.

3. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the outlet is arranged tangential to the chamber.

4. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the chamber is cylindrical.

5. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the longitudinal axis of the chamber is substantially vertical.

6. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the inlet and the outlet are at opposite ends of the chamber.

7. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the fluid flow is a chilled airflow.

8. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the device for generating the fluid flow comprises a fan and an evaporator, the evaporator housing a refrigerant.

9. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the outlet is arranged so as to pass the fluid flow to the evaporator for recirculation.

10. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein a support is provided for supporting the object spaced from a wall of the chamber.

11. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the chamber is dimensioned so as to hold a beverage bottle.

12. (Previously Presented) A refrigerating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of chambers, each chamber being dimensioned so as to house an object to be chilled.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of chilling an object, comprising:

a) placing an object to be chilled in a chamber, the chamber having a longitudinal axis and being configured to receive the object to be chilled, an inlet and an outlet spaced along the longitudinal axis of the chamber;

b) introducing a fluid flow to the inlet of the chamber;

c) causing the fluid flow to follow a helical path ~~in contact with the object to be chilled~~ about the longitudinal axis and around the object to be chilled, the fluid being in contact with the object to be chilled; and

d) allowing the fluid flow to exit the chamber via the outlet.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim 14, wherein the fluid flow is introduced tangentially to the chamber.

16. (Original) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim in claim 14 or 15, wherein the fluid flow passes at least twice around the object before being allowed to exit the chamber.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim 14 or 15, wherein the fluid flow is caused to flow between a wall of the chamber and a support on which the object is placed.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim 14 or 15, further comprising chilling the fluid flow prior to entry into the chamber.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim 18, further comprising passing the fluid flow through an evaporator.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim 19, further comprising returning the fluid flow to the evaporator for rechilling after exiting the chamber via the outlet.

21. (Original) A method of chilling an object as claimed in claim 20, wherein the rechilled fluid flow is introduced to the inlet of the chamber.

22. (Canceled)